



NEWS RELEASE

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Department of Interior Highlights Ocean Expertise With New Educational Poster Minerals Management Service Donates Posters to Aquarium of the Pacific To Support Educational Programs

CAMARILLO- The Department of the Interior will unveil to the public its new *Our Ocean Role* poster at the Aquarium of the Pacific's fifth annual Earth Day Weekend Celebration on April 23-24, 2005 in Long Beach, California. The colorful educational poster brings to life the Department's role in managing and protecting America's coastal and ocean resources. Photos of scientists from several Interior bureaus capture the many scientific disciplines employed by the Department to carry out its mission. Copies of the poster will be available to the public free of charge during the two-day event, while supplies last.

The Interior Department's Minerals Management Service will donate a supply of the new *Our Ocean Role* poster to the Aquarium of the Pacific to support the facility's ocean education programs to the local community throughout the year.

"The poster will not only educate the public on DOI's stewardship and management responsibilities, but hopefully inspire students to take an interest in ocean sciences," said Dr. Fred Piltz, MMS's senior scientist responsible for managing environmental studies along California.

MMS, part of the U.S. Department of the Interior, oversees 1.76 billion acres of the Outer Continental Shelf, managing offshore energy and minerals while protecting the human, marine, and coastal environments through advanced science and technology research. The OCS provides 30 percent of oil and 23 percent of natural gas produced domestically, and sand used for coastal restoration. MMS's collects, accounts for, and disburses mineral revenues from Federal and American Indian lands, with Fiscal Year 2004 disbursements of approximately \$8 billion and more than \$143 billion since 1982. The Land and Water Conservation Fund, which pays for cooperative conservation, grants to states, and Federal land acquisition, gets nearly \$1 billion a year.

MMS Website: www.mms.gov
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